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5533 '99 JUN 29 A10:13

June 25, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 99D-0557

To Whom It May Concern:

FDA guidelines issued April 6, 1999 instituted a de facto ban on nonhuman primate xenografts because they would expose patients and the public to "significant infectious disease risk" (Docket No. 99D-0557), but the guidelines failed to address dangers with other species. Transgenic pigs are considered source animals of choice for xenotransplants despite the existence of over 25 diseases in pigs that can infect humans. Pigs are not safer than nonhuman primates: witness swine influenza, the Porcine Endogenous Retroviruses, paramyxovirus, and the new "Nipah" virus in Malaysia that infected over 250 humans, killed 103, and led to the slaughter of over 1 million pigs. There are safer, more cost-effective, and humane alternatives to xenotransplantation that are not being explored by regulatory authorities. These include investing heavily in preventative medicine programs to reduce the need for transplants of all kinds and increasing the pool of human organs as many European countries have done through legislative schemes. I respectfully demand that the Department of Health and Human Services ban xenotransplantation from all nonhuman species immediately.

Thank you,

Nadja Mair

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99D-0557

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